

# Crossed Sabers

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

*"Telling the First Team's Story"*

Friday, Jan. 20, 2006



(Photo by Pvt. Ben Fox, 3rd BCT Public Affairs)

**Soldiers from Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, create a perimeter for security of their Bradley Fighting Vehicle during the cordon and search lane of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's "Grey Wolf Challenge" at Fort Hood Jan. 8. The lanes challenged Soldiers to adapt to changing situations in an unknown environment.**

## Troops Tackle "Grey Wolf Challenge"

**By Sgt. Serena Hayden  
3rd BCT Public Affairs**

Throughout January, the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, is conducting a brigade-wide field training exercise aimed at teaching leaders and Soldiers to adapt to ever changing situations in an unknown environment.

The exercise, dubbed "Grey Wolf Challenge," is designed to enhance the brigade's model of excellence – a balance between Soldiers' confidence, competence and discipline, said Col. David Sutherland, the 3rd BCT commander.

"The basis for everything we do is discipline ... doing the right thing when nobody is looking," Sutherland said. "If this base isn't here, then everything else

falls apart."

By applying discipline to standards and tactical situations, Soldiers will gain confidence, Sutherland added.

Not only will Soldiers be able to adapt to their environment and actions on contact, they will gain confidence in their team, leadership, families and equipment, Sutherland said.

From Grey Wolf Challenge, Sutherland said he wants Soldiers to know they are prepared for any contingency, because they are prepared for any situation.

As Soldiers train, Sutherland said they will continue to become competent in their skills, knowledge and attributes. By becoming more proficient, Soldiers and leaders will have the ability to "synchronize functions and formations throughout the full breadth of the battlefield,"

Sutherland said.

"If those three elements are synchronized, you will come out with high morale," he said.

The synchronization process, however, cannot be achieved without the balance of leading, training, caring and maintaining; which in the end, falls under resource management. To achieve resource management throughout the exercise, Sutherland said the brigade has integrated all battlefield functions to establish systems and manage chaos.

During the exercise, battalions within the brigade are challenged on three company lanes. The lanes include actions on contact, cordon and search operations and

see **Challenge** Page 4

## Man On The Street

How did the civil rights movement affect you?

Photos by Spc. Joshua McPhie  
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



Capt. Greg Turner  
1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment,  
2nd Brigade  
Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division

"I don't know if it affected the Army or the Army affected it, but we're an equal Army. As a company commander, I know I can rely on Soldiers regardless of race."

"We have more opportunity now as blacks. I'm able to join the military and get paid the same amount. I can go to school and have the same opportunities as everyone else."



Sgt. Latisha Martinez,  
Special Troops  
Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division



Sgt. Wylie Davis,  
Special Troops  
Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division

"I probably wouldn't be in the military without it. Society would look at my position in the military as being less significant. African Americans wouldn't be as confident in day-to-day life."

## A Day On, Not A Day Off

Each year in the month of January, we take time out to commemorate the contributions to our great nation by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Throughout the 1st Cavalry Division, we will celebrate and reflect on these efforts

with the theme: "REMEMBER, CELEBRATE, ACT! A Day On, Not A Day Off."

This theme challenges all of us to be vigilant. Dignity and respect is not just our motto, but requires active participation everyday by each and every one of us to do the right thing. In this we REMEMBER the heroism of the nonviolent campaign, the many injustices and the violent deaths of so many who tried to affect change, including Dr. King himself.

We also CELEBRATE our accom-

plishments in civil rights and the privilege to be the defenders of freedom. As

we share this honor and commemorate our successes, we recognize that not everyone in America has equal access to these benefits and Dr. King's dream is still a goal.

I challenge each member of this command, military and civilian, to take up the call to ACT! We sometimes fail to remember Dr. King's humanity and that we possess the same responsibilities as leaders to continue to make progress toward our goal. The movement's successes were not the actions of Dr. King alone, but the contributions of thousands of ordinary Americans from every race, gender, national origin, and religion.

FIRST TEAM!



### Preventing POV Accidents



Speed,  
Fatigue,  
Alcohol, and  
non-use of  
seatbelts are  
killers.



**Commanding General:** Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr.  
**Public Affairs Officer:** Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl  
**Command Information Officer:** Master Sgt. Dave Larsen  
**Editor:** Spc. Colby Hauser

**Contributing Writers:** Sgt. Serena Hayden, Sgt. Paula Taylor, Spc. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. Joshua McPhie, Spc. Robert Yde, Spc. Sheena Reyes, Pfc. Ryan Stroud, Pvt. Ben Fox

**Contact Crossed Sabers at 287-6162, 287-9400 or e-mail [david.larsen@hood.army.mil](mailto:david.larsen@hood.army.mil).**

Crossed Sabers is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of Crossed Sabers are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the First Cavalry Division. All editorial content of Crossed Sabers is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

# Museum to Unveil New Exhibit

By Spc. Nicole Kojetin  
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The wait is over. The tale of the 1st Cavalry Division's role in the War on Terror thus far has been interwoven into a path of remembrance and achievement on the walls of the division's museum.

Immediately after the First Team returned, from Iraq the museum staff started on a quest to get material for a War on Terror exhibit in the growing museum, said Steven Draper, the museum director.

The year of squirreling information has paid off. The exhibit's grand opening and ribbon cutting is Jan. 27, and it will be officially open to the public.

"I am excited to finally see it done," said Carrie Cutchens, the museum's collection agent. "We have been working on it for so long."

Her office in the dark back section of the museum was heaped with piles of artifacts donated for the section with barely enough room to walk. Everything chosen for the exhibit had to be cleaned to an extent and sorted into different levels of operation.

"We had to clean them a little, but we still wanted them to look like they were in the desert," Cutchens said. "Some of the gear looks like the Soldiers just walked in here, took it off and dropped it on the floor."

Authentic equipment was the key to making the life-like exhibits true to the operations from September 11, 2001 to the completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"Within the guidelines of the command, every Soldier altered their equipment to suit



(Photo by Spc. Nicole Kojetin, 1CD Public Affairs)

**Carrie Cutchens, the 1st Cavalry Division's Museum's collection agent, holds up body armor to show the condition after being exposed to an improvised explosive device. This piece will be used to show how protective gear can save lives, including the story of the Soldier who wore the equipment in the War on Terror exhibit in the 1st Cavalry Division Museum.**

them better," Cutchens said. "They put on more ammo pouches, bought more storage for their gear, hooked things onto their vests, etc."

"One segment has a stack [or line] of five Soldiers getting ready to search a building, and their gear is in five totally different configurations," Draper said. "That is how we received it."

The items that could not fit into the main exhibit are going to be turned into a temporary exhibit that will be loaned to III Corps. In addition to the gritty memorabilia, e-mail boxes of museum staffers were also flooded with digital information.

"We had a good response," Draper said. "We received over 160 gigabytes of data,

both photos and documents."

There is section of about 100 photos donated to the museum mounted in relief, which means that they are raised at different levels away from the wall - many of which came from individual Soldiers.

This is Draper's favorite part, especially since he spent some time with the troops over there.

"It really tells, in a nutshell, the entire operation, but on a more personal level," Draper said. "There are a lot of

neat photos. Some were comical, some weren't - a real gamut of emotions."

The hardest part of putting the exhibit together was simplifying all the data into text that is readable to the non-military public, Draper said.

But it was done through the input of troops who were there.

"The Soldiers had an intricate role in the concept and design," Draper said. "We kept their hearts in mind when we designed it."

Catch our television newscast  
**Cav Country**  
during **Fort Hood on Track** Jan.  
5 and 19 on cable channel 4 or  
**KNCT-TV (PBS Killeen) at 7 p.m.**



( Photo by Spc. Nicole Kojetin, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

## Cavalry Chaplain 'Stole' the Ceremony

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Steve Walsh raises his grandfather's spurs while talking about how much coming to the 1st Cavalry Division means to him during a "changing of the stole" ceremony at the First Team's Memorial Chapel on Fort Hood Jan. 5. Walsh comes to the division from the 42nd Military Police Brigade in Fort Lewis, Wash. and is replacing Chap. (Lt. Col.) David Moran. Moran is moving on to assume duties as chaplain for the Military District of Washington.

## Challenge

From Page 1

route security.

Each lane teaches commanders and their troops to deal with multiple forms of contact simultaneously, said Maj. Robert Wright, the brigade's fire support officer.

"There are no longer cut and dry steps [to training]," Sutherland said.

"Training at every level must be multi-echelon, stressful, engaging, relevant and current," he added.

Lt. Col. Michael Rose, commander of the brigade's Special Troops Battalion, said Grey Wolf Challenge offers more dimensions than previous training exercises.

Before, focus was primarily on offensive and defensive operations. Now, he said, stability and support operations play a large role in the brigade's training exercises.

The training has developed from veteran's experiences and other lessons learned to prepare Soldiers for the contemporary operation environment, Rose said.

"We are trying to condense a number of events that they [Soldiers] could see in a day or week [in Iraq or Afghanistan] into a couple of hours," Rose said.

"The training takes advantage of limited time to put leaders in more stressful situations and allows for more rapid decision making."

Throughout the lanes, companies are tested on how they interact with the Iraqi



(Photo by Pvt. Ben Fox, 3rd BCT Public Affairs)

**Bradley Fighting Vehicles from Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, prepare to execute the cordon and search lane during the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's "Grey Wolf Challenge" at Fort Hood Jan. 8.**

people and respect their culture.

Both Iraqi cultural advisors and Soldiers portraying Iraqi civilians help create a sense of realism during the lane scenarios, Rose said.

Cultural awareness helps Soldiers focus on the mission and execute it in a positive manner, according to one Iraqi cultural advisor.

Knowing the culture also allows Soldiers to perform their duties more professionally and avoid unnecessary conflict because there are a lot of things about American culture that are unacceptable in Iraq, the advisor added.

While the brigade is only half way through the training exercise, Soldiers have already said the training is beneficial.

"Last time [the brigade deployed], we

trained on many things we didn't use," said Sgt. Danny McGee, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery.

"Now it's more focused and we can do it right."

McGee also said training as a brigade has been helpful because Soldiers are training with the troops they are going to be working with – artillery is working with engineers, who are working with tankers.

Spc. Jason Haferkamp, also with Company A, 2-82nd FA, has not deployed to Iraq but said training with more experienced Soldiers has made him more aware, and an asset to his unit.

"Hopefully, we continue to do more training like this so I can continue to be an asset to my fellow comrades," Haferkamp said.

# “Black Jack” Leads Cav Remembrance

By Spc. Robert Yde  
2nd BCT Public Affairs

A day on, not a day off.

This was the theme Jan. 12 as Soldiers and guests gathered at Fort Hood’s Howze Auditorium for the 1st Cavalry Division’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance.

Leading the way in the celebration was the 2nd Brigade “Black Jack” Combat Team, who coordinated the event.

“We started working on the program over the holidays,” said Master Sgt. Sarah Blackmon, the noncommissioned officer in charge of support operations for 15th Brigade Support Battalion.

“It has been a total team effort,” she said.

Preceding the program, the words of King’s famous “I have a dream” speech echoed through the auditorium, while a slide show of images from his life and the civil rights movement were shown on the large screen.

Black bracelets with King’s five principles: non-violence, brotherhood, justice, morality and action were handed out at the door.

While the focus of the program was the life of King, the First Team also took time to remember King’s dear friend Rosa Parks, who is regarded by many as the mother of the civil rights movement.

Black Jack Soldiers performed a reenactment of the event that helped ignite the civil rights movement: Parks’ refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Ala.

This act of civil disobedience sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, and it was this



(Photos by Spc. Robert Yde, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

**Soldiers from 15th Brigade Support Battalion, reenact a scene from the Montgomery bus boycott. The reenactment was part of the 1st Cavalry Division’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Jan. 12 at Howze Auditorium sponsored by the 2nd “Black Jack” Brigade Combat Team.**

movement, which King led, that propelled him onto the national stage.

The skit ended with Parks, who was portrayed by 1st Lt. Jamie Cook, the executive officer for Company C, 15th BSB, delivering an eloquent monologue highlighting the life and accomplishments of Parks and her friendship with King.

“I wrote it by combining different interviews that she had done,” Cook said of her monologue.

Following the skit, the audience was addressed by guest speaker Col. Barrye L. Price, the deputy assistant chief of staff for personnel, with the Army Materiel Command at Fort Belvoir, Va.

“My goal was to deconstruct the mythical King, and get back to his humanity,” Price said of his speech following the program.

Price, who holds a Ph.D. in American history from Texas

throughout his life.

“Dr. King always answered the call for duty,” Price told the audience.

Price also discussed King’s childhood, which was one of relative comfort and affluence.

However, while his family was better off than most African Americans, this did not protect a young King from the racism and segregation that was so prevalent in the southern United States.

“The shadow of racial discrimination was cast early in King’s life,” Price said, as he told of several instances when King faced discrimination as a child.

Including the story of a white mother who would not let her children play with a six-year-old King, after she deemed they were too old to

A&M, called King the confronter of Jim Crow and segregation, and spoke of how King personified the warrior ethos

See **Leads** Page 6



**A reenactment of Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus was part of the 1st Cavalry Division’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Jan 12 at Howze Auditorium. This incident led to the Montgomery bus boycott, which propelled King and the civil rights movement onto the national stage.**

## Troops Remember King's Contributions to Society

By Spc. Joshua McPhie  
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dedication to civil rights helped bring momentous change to the nation. Even though nearly 40 years have passed since his death, his legacy can still be found daily.

"He has had a profound impact on our society," said Ron Taylor, the guest speaker at the 15th Support Brigade's Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration, Jan. 11 at Fort Hood's Community Events Center. "It's a person's character that matters. Color has nothing to do with it."

"He made people realize that there is no better raced, we're all equal," said Sgt. Charles Hoffman, 15th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

"There's more equality now. I'm not sure if it's directly because of him but it's stemmed from him," said Sgt. Dante Banks, 15th BTSB.

King's fervent dedication to his ideals made him an icon to generations.

"Would you put your life and your family's life at risk for an idea? That's what made King so special," Taylor said.

His affect is felt not just as a society but also on a personal level. Hoffman said he and he wife would most likely not be married if it weren't for the civil rights victories King helped win, since they are a mixed race couple.

"One of the ways he's affected me is, it's often tempting to look at a situation and say 'What can I do?'," said Chap. (Maj.)

### Leads

From Page 4

play with African Americans.

As King grew into the man who would help change American society, he combined his Christian ideals with Ghandi's philosophy of peaceful demonstration and protest.

Soldiers were encouraged to use their long weekend to remember the accomplishments of King and the civil rights movement, as well as take pride in the fact that they are the defenders of such freedoms.

"This program was a great success," Blackmon said, "I think people were not



(Photo by Spc. Joshua McPhie, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

**Spc. Lucky Tagaloa, the Fort Hood "Military Idol" winner, performs a musical selection during the 15th Support Brigade's Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration Jan. 11 at Fort Hood.**

Stan Whitten, the brigade chaplain. "Then I look at what he accomplished and it encourages me to take risks."

One of the things Taylor said he respects most about King was his ability to tolerate injustice, rise above it and keep trying to make things better.

Remembering the life of Martin Luther King Jr. each year helps keep his contributions and struggles fresh in peo-

ple's minds.

"If we don't stop and look backwards, it's easy to forget what he did and what continues to happen as a result of that," Whitten said.

"As time goes on, people will forget and younger people may not learn about what happened," Banks said. "I don't think it will ever go back to the way it was, but we still need to remember."

### The Times, They Are Changing



(Photo by Spc. Nicole Kojetin, 1st Cav. Div. PAO)



(Photo by Spc. Colby Hauser, 1st Cav. Div. PAO)

**Command Sgt. Maj. Byron Briscoe says farewell to his troops as Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Moses assumes responsibility of the 1st Cavalry Division Special Troops Battalion Jan. 12 at Cooper Field.**

# Troops Check Out New Combat Vehicles

By Spc. Sheena Reyes  
1st BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers in 1st Brigade are getting some “tricked-out rides,” but they’re not equipped with flat screen televisions or booming subs; they’re combat vehicles stylized for battle.

Since October of last year, battalions throughout the brigade have received combat vehicles and have begun taking them to the field for some high-speed training. Operational New Equipment Training is the start.

OPNET consists of three phases and is required for all Soldiers in 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, who are unfamiliar with the

equipment.

During the first phase, Soldiers must complete a block of classroom instruction lasting 21 days. This portion of instruction is split with morning classes on specific components of the weapons system and afternoon hands-on training.

“The blocks of instruction are very effective because not only are Soldiers learning the specifics of the equipment, but they are also getting time to practice what they’ve learned,” said 1st Lt. Peter Jodko, a platoon leader for Alpha Troop, 1-7 Cavalry.

Pre-gunnery is the second phase of OPNET and consists of a Bradley Gunnery Skills Test and the Bradley Advanced

Training System.

The BGST is a series of 14 skills tests requiring specific firing procedures for each vehicle.

BATS is a Bradley simulator program providing realistic training through simulated scenarios. This allows Soldiers to practice using a Bradley without actually being in one.

“It’s always important that training like this is detailed so that every Soldier here knows the vehicle down to the smallest components,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew O’Dell, a squadron commander gunner attending the training.

The final phase of OPNET allows Soldiers to practice and test their skills for two weeks.

This is the first time Soldiers will actually fire live rounds, culminating the training with a series of qualifications.

“The last phase of training can seem very daunting for Soldiers because they must qualify in several events,” said Sgt. 1st Class Luis Escribano, an instructor from the New Equipment Training Company from Fort Benning, Ga.

“Each test demands that they are completely familiar and confident with the skills that they have learned.”

Every Soldier must pass at least seven out of 10 tests to pass the course. The Auxiliary Sight Test requires Soldiers to use an alternate sight, known as the auxiliary sight, instead of using the vehicle’s primary sight to fire at targets.

There is also a manual test which requires Soldiers to hit targets while their vehicle has no power. Soldiers must mobilize their vehicle manually while also firing for accuracy.

A nuclear, biological and chemical firing sequence requires Soldiers to hit targets while wearing protective gear.

All of the qualifications must be completed both during the day and at night. Though demanding, Soldiers agree that the training is vital to their mission.

“I really like this training because, from the driver to the gunner, everyone in the vehicle needs to have a specific guideline as to how the Bradley functions,” said Pfc. David Free, a Bradley driver from Headquarters Troop, 1-7 Cav. “The more you know, the safer you are. In the unfortunate event that someone becomes a casualty, someone will be more than ready to take that person’s place thanks to this training.”



(Photo by Spc. Sheena Reyes, 1st BCT Public Affairs)

**Malcolm Holt instructs a class of Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment during Operational New Equipment Training Jan. 10 at the battalion’s motor pool.**

## 2BCT Puts New Spin on EO Training

By Spc. Robert Yde  
2nd BCT Public Affairs

When many Soldiers learn that they will be attending a block of equal opportunity training, their eyes involuntarily glaze over as in a trance, and the mantra "death by Power Point" plays over and over in their minds.

While the subject matter being discussed is important, the presentation sometimes leaves something to be desired.

As a way to remedy this dilemma, the 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Brigade "Black Jack" Combat Team is trying something new.

Instead of a standard training briefing, accompanied by a lecture, equal opportunity advisors used Soldiers to role-play skits depicting EO issues taken from real life situations during the Black Jack Sexual Harassment Awareness Day Jan. 5.

The training was held at the Community Events Center, and the Soldiers watched as different scenarios were acted out before the floor was opened up for discussion and feedback.

Several of the scenarios obviously struck a chord with some of the Soldiers judging by the lively responses and debate that followed each skit.

The extensive interaction among the audience members demonstrated just how well this new format was working.

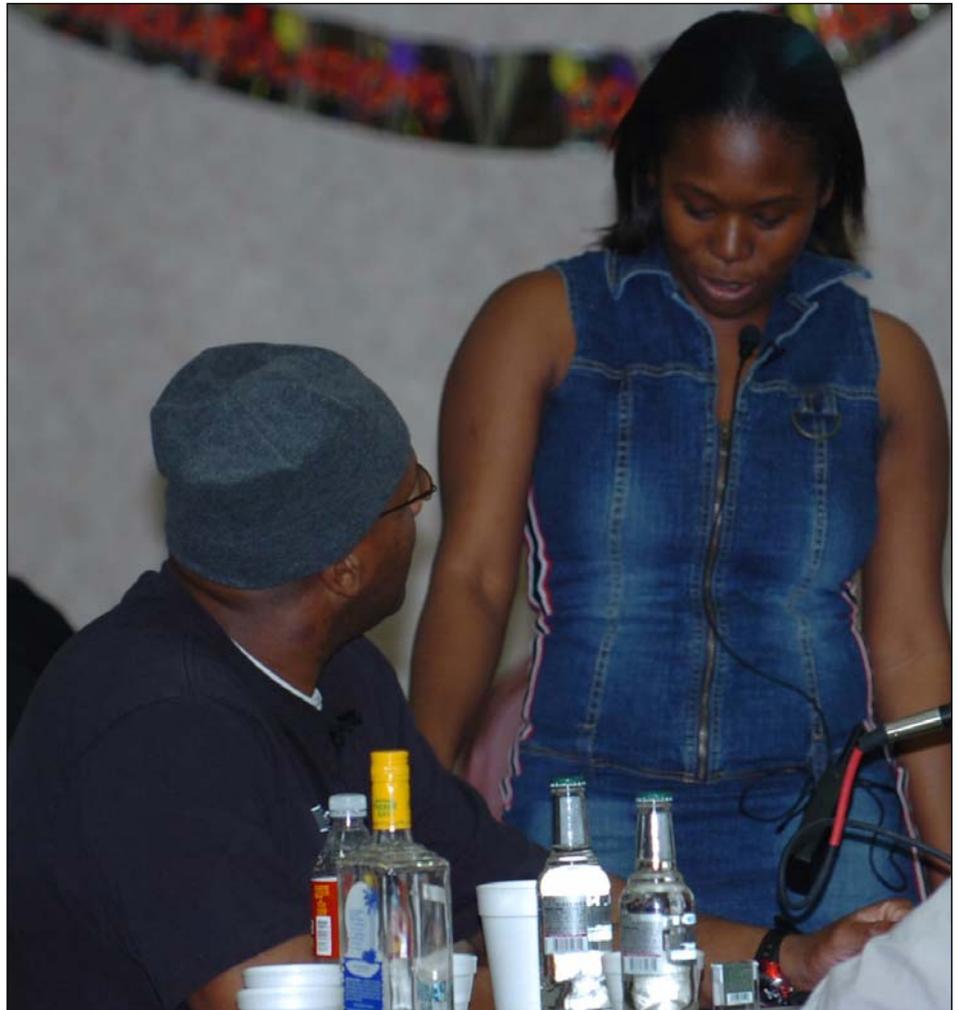
"Soldiers enjoy this much more than the Power Point presentations," said Sgt. 1st Class Verdell Brown, the facilitator for the training and the equal opportunity advisor for the 15th Support Brigade.

"I wrote the script from real life things that I've seen myself," Brown explained.

Incidents such as sexual harassment from a superior and harassment from another Soldier of the same sex were energetically acted out by the cast of Black Jack Soldiers.

Soldiers who participated in the role-playing were cast based on their personalities, said Sgt. 1st Class Atoro Barnes, the EOA for the Division's Special Troops Battalion.

He said while the scenarios and how they would unfold were written out, the dialogue was not. The role-players had to



(Photo by Spc. Robert Yde, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

**Spc. Deresha Jacobs (right), an actions clerk with 15th Brigade Support Battalion, takes offense to unwanted advances from Cpl. Aseba Okim, a paralegal with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Special Troops Battalion, while performing a skit during Black Jack Sexual Harassment Awareness Day Jan. 5. The training was held at the Community Events Center with brigade troops role-playing in various scenarios as an alternative to the standard training briefing presentations.**

improvise their lines.

"You just have to be yourself and have fun," said Spc. Luke McNair, a light wheel mechanic with 2nd Brigade's Special Troops Battalion, who played a lead role.

While the actors integrated some humor into the skits, the subject matter was serious.

Soldiers were reminded that if they are victims of sexual harassment there are numerous avenues available to assist them.

Along with the designated EO reps,

Brown encouraged the Soldiers to seek out help from their chain of command if they find themselves in an uncomfortable situation.

"There is leadership all around," Brown reiterated. She also urged those in positions of leadership to take the lessons learned from the training back to their units and continue to build on them.

"It is all of our responsibility as Soldiers to help stop sexual harassment," Brown said.

## NCO Leads Winning DFAC

By Spc. Robert Yde  
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Food service is a tireless task.

Days begin by 5:00 a.m., as cooks prepare breakfast, and can easily run as late as 7:30 p.m.

"There is very little appreciation," Sgt 1st Class Denise Worsley said. "We work from sun up to sun down."

Worsley should know. She has been in food service for 16 years, and is currently the manager of the Sgt. John N. Holcombe Dining Facility, the 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Brigade Combat Team's dining facility.

Worsley, who arrived at Fort Hood in 1998, took over the Black Jack DFAC Aug. 1, 2005, from a civilian contract company that had operated it while the brigade was deployed to Iraq. Upon being named

DFAC manager, Worsley's first mission was to clean it up.

"I had to get the standards back to military standards," Worsley explained. "Soldiers were coming in here in flip flops and tank tops."

After establishing the proper standards, and dealing with a 26-page notebook full of work orders she inherited, Worsley was able to focus all of her attention on the day-to-day aspects of running the DFAC, which serves about 350 Soldiers per meal.

"The Army won't function if the Soldiers aren't fed," Worsley said.

All the hard work has paid off, and this was never more evident than the week of Thanksgiving when the Black Jack DFAC



(Photo by Spc. Robert Yde, 2BCT,1CD Public Affairs)

**Sgt. 1st Class Denise Worsley poses in the Black Jack dining facility. The hard work that Worsley has put into the DFAC since being named manager in August paid off when her facility was named the Best Thanksgiving Day Dining Facility 2005.**

See DFAC Page 13

## 2BCT, Air Cavalry Brigades Begin Integration

By Spc. Robert Yde  
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Officers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team met with their counterparts from the division's 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Jan. 6 in the first step in their preparation for joint training exercises in the coming months.

Lt. Col. Mike Mahony, operations officer for the ACB, led a presentation to the Black Jack officers touching on Air Cav's many capabilities and what is needed from the ground for successful air integration.

"This is the start of what is, arguably, our bread and butter," Mahony said.

Since returning from Iraq last year, the Air Cav has grown and now has 110 aircraft, including the CH-47D Chinook, which is new to the brigade.

Mahoney explained that the Air Cav's mission is to support ground operations and the



(Photo by Spc. Robert Yde, 2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

**Lt. Col. Mike Mahony, operations officer for the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, discusses the importance of air-ground integration with officers from the 2nd Brigade "Black Jack" Combat Team. This presentation at the Officer's Club Jan. 6 was just the beginning of several upcoming joint training exercises for the two brigades.**

key to doing this successfully is communication between the ground element and the air element.

Air crews must have the same graphics as the the ground element to fully understand the scheme of the maneu-

vers, Mahony said.

With several types of aircraft available, the Air Cav can play a variety of roles including: providing convoy security, carrying out attack and reconnaissance missions, cordon operations, air movements, and

re-supply or "fattin' the cow" missions.

"The Air Cav brigade is crucial to executing the mission," said Maj. Cristine Gibney, the Black Jack Brigade plans officer in charge of the air defense cell.

Mahoney also advised the Black Jack officers on the proper procedures for requesting air support and the pros and cons of the different means of urban marking.

This initial meeting served as a chance for the leadership of both brigades to get some "face time," as they both prepare for their upcoming joint training.

"We will work together during company lanes. We have a combined-arms fight planned for our upcoming rotation at the National Training Center," Gibney said.

Mahoney summed up the importance of air-ground integration.

"When we fly," he said, "Soldiers don't die."

# 3BCT Sets Up Army's New TOC

By Pfc. Ryan Stroud  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team became the first to set up the Army's new Tactical Operations Center and put it on display for division and III Corps leaders Dec. 14.

The TOC, also known as the Command Post Platform, is the first of its kind, and the 3rd BCT is the first unit in the Army to receive and train on the new system, said Mark Mitcham, program managers for Northrop Grumman Corporation's Mission Systems Sector.

Senior leaders were impressed with Grey Wolf's display.

"I think the new TOCs are flexible and have great potential," said Brig. Gen. Peter Devlin, deputy commanding general of III Corps.

"But most of all, I admire

the energy of the Soldiers that work here because those are the persons that are going to make it hum and make it very successful.

"There is wonderful potential here and when that potential is combined with the energy and drive of the Soldiers, 'Grey Wolf' can't help but be successful," he said.

The systems, which have been in the developmental process for the past two years, consist of a standard configuration for command posts, Mitcham said.

They include all equipment required for tactical communications, and voice and data communications.

"It's important to be able to put all your elements of your brigade staff together in one place to communicate," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kerry Murphy, 3rd BCT.

"We are able to shoot, move and communicate with this new, fast, mobile TOC," he



(Photos by Pfc. Ryan Stroud, 3rd BCT Public Affairs)

**Spc. Chris Cobbs, a tactical operations center specialist with the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, prepares to load a map on a computer inside the Army's new Tactical Operations Center. A video management system will enable commanders to view maps of current operations and enemy activity.**

said.

While the brigade displayed two medium-size pieces joined for the demonstration, representing a brigade-sized CPP, multiple tents can be joined to meet any size requirement, Mitcham said.

During the demonstration, elements of brigade staff were displayed to demonstrate how they would work in a combat zone.

The tents, which connect to two humvees, include 10 full-size desks inside, computers with wall-mounted monitors and communication equipment.

The TOC also includes an information system allowing units to link radio systems, communicate through an intercom system and view maps of current operations through a video management system, Mitcham said.

"The old TOCs needed to be improved," Mitcham said. "There was just too many

things wrong with them."

The new system is much easier to move and set up, said Spc. Chris Cobbs, who has deployed twice with brigade TOCs.

He said the older systems required Soldiers to drive in stakes and erect poles, making it very time-consuming.

With the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter, six Soldiers can construct the new TOC in less than an hour. Cobbs said the DRAS system allows Soldiers to disassemble the system quickly, too.

Besides being easier to deal with on the move, the new operation centers come equipped with environmental control units to regulate the heat and air conditioning, helping reduce damage to equipment from environmental factors, Cobbs said.

"The new equipment and TOC system will make us faster," he said. "It will make us lighter."



**The Army's new Tactical Operations Center was on display for senior leaders on Fort Hood at the 1st Cavalry Division's Special Project Yard Dec. 14. Two humvees connected in the front of the mobile structure are used to store equipment, house the TOC when not in use, help provide stability to the TOC and for basic transportation for the system.**

**Retention Efforts Recognized****Field Artillery Units Lead Grey Wolf For Re-up**

By Pvt. Ben Fox  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

For the second consecutive quarter, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment led the way for the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team in retaining Soldiers.

A ceremony honoring brigade units Jan. 4 in the brigade dining facility saw 2-82nd FA take home the "Commander's Cup" for the second quarter in a row. The award goes to the battalion with the highest reenlistment rate each quarter.

"[The ceremony] speaks multitudes about the chain of command, the career counselors and the battalion retention [non-commissioned officers] who work for the brigade," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Helmes, a career counselor for 3rd BCT.

"This is a chance for the brigade commander to ... recognize three months of really hard work," he said.

Col. David Sutherland, brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, the brigade's senior non-commissioned officer, presented the awards to the top career counselors in each battalion.

The "Top Company"



**Col. David Sutherland, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander, ties a re-enlistment streamer to the guidon of Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment for winning the "Top Company" award at a ceremony honoring the brigade's retention efforts Jan. 4. HHB, 2-82nd FA achieved 225 percent of its reenlistment quarterly goal.**

award went to Headquarters Battery, 2-82nd FA, for retaining a whopping 225 percent of its quarterly retention goal.

Three other battalions received Retention Excellence awards for meeting or exceeding their quarterly retention goals. They were: 3rd Brigade

Special Troops Battalion (100 percent); 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (107 percent); and 6th Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment (113 percent).

Benefits for reenlisting Soldiers can include duty station of choice, stabilization at Fort Hood, bonus money, airborne training, air assault training and reclassification of military occupational specialties, Helmes said.

For Soldiers who choose to remain in the division, there are also extra benefits.

They include 12 months stabilization at Fort Hood and the III Corps education incentive, which allows Soldiers to schedule flexible hours with their chain of command allow-

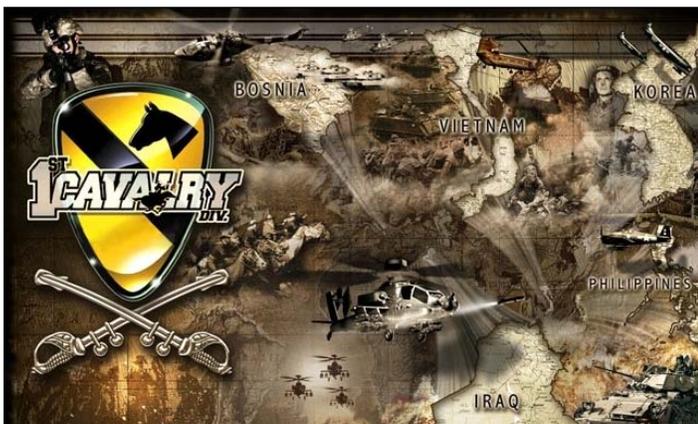
ing them to take college classes during the duty day, Helmes added.

During the ceremony, a Meritorious Service Medal was presented to Sgt. 1st Class John Para, a career counselor with Headquarters Company, 3rd BCT, who is retiring after a 22-year career.

Para said he didn't understand why Soldiers wouldn't re-enlist in today's Army, noting the better pay and benefits than the Army offers.

He said keeping experienced troops in the Army helps new Soldiers learn their warrior tasks and drills.

Para said his belief in the Army is what drove him to work toward encouraging Soldiers to re-enlist.



# Earth Churning Up a Cav OIF Memorial

By Spc. Nicole L. Kojetin  
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The ground is raw from machinery, with sparse patches of grass surrounding a slab of concrete in the rough shape of the largest patch in the Army, but there is no activity to be seen inside the fence.

The mysterious blocked off area

around the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial on 1st Cavalry Division's parade field may seem quiet lately, but it has not been forgotten.

The construction is not on hold. The workers are simply waiting for the next step.

"Right now the concrete is setting," said Lt. Col. Lawrence Holmes, the divi-

sion engineer, while looking at the patch. "We are also waiting for all the granite to arrive."

The granite is coming in from California, Canada, and India. Since some of the material is arriving by ship, all the material may not be on Fort Hood until the middle of February, Holmes said.

Since the groundbreaking in September, the ground has been leveled, the foundation of the patch has been poured, and electric lines for lighting have been embedded.

The next step will be the removal the frame and supports that held the concrete in place, Holmes said. When all the supplies arrive, the patch will be covered in yellow brick and granite and will be framed by walls etched with the names of the 169 Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq.

Currently, the patch looks a little out of place. It is raised to nearly a foot above ground but there is a reason for it.

"This will help with water drainage and prevent damage," Holmes said.

Eventually, the field will be landscaped to gently slope towards the patch with sidewalks leading visitors to the patch.

The memorial is scheduled to be completed and April 4.



(Photo by Spc. Nicole Kojetin, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Lt. Col. Lawrence Holmes, the 1st Cavalry Division engineer, points to an aspect of the construction of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dec. 29. The memorial should be complete in the first week of April.

## Two New Re-up Programs Now Available

By Spc. Colby Hauser  
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The Department of the Army is offering two new programs for Soldiers eligible to reenlist between Jan. 6 and April 30, one of which is specific for troops stationed at Fort Hood and their families.

Announced Jan. 6, when most of Fort Hood was on block leave, the Army has increased the selected reenlistment bonus cap by \$7,500 for initial and mid-career Soldiers.

Also, the Spouse Reenlistment Education Incentive Option, a pilot pro-

gram only being offered here, allows the spouses of service members who have reenlisted for the Army Stabilization Reenlistment Option to attend college courses at the education center.

"The biggest misconception in the Army is that it's just the Soldier that reenlists, and it's not," said Staff Sgt. Rex Fortner, the 1st Cavalry Division retention operations noncommissioned officer.

"It's the entire family that reenlists," he said.

During the trial period, spouses of those troops who reenlist to stay with the 1st

Cavalry Division will be able to attend college classes for free on a first-come, first-serve basis within the six month period after the sponsor reenlists.

"Due to the high tempo, many of the seats over at the education are empty," said Sgt. Maj. Merle Henry, the division's retention command counselor.

"With this pilot program, it's a win-win situation for both the Army and the Soldier's family," he said.

Henry said that base retention officials are also working with the Family Readiness Groups and Army Community

Service to assist with logistical issues, such as day care and transportation for those attending class.

"What's great about this program is that we not only get to take care of Soldiers, but help their families while they're away," he said.

Spouses must enroll through the Education Services Division and only Central Texas College NCO Lead classes are available for the pilot program.

For further information on both programs and the new SRB, troops are encouraged to contact their career counselors.

# Long Knife Troops Sharpen Skills

By Sgt. Paula Taylor  
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORT BLISS, Texas - Cavalry troops from the Long Knife brigade recently sharpened their leadership skills by attending the Warrior Leaders Course at the Fort Bliss Noncommissioned Officers Academy.

The month-long course, which began Nov. 14, produced several honor graduates out of the twenty-seven troops attending from 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division who were honored in a ceremony held Dec. 15.

The course, formally known as the Primary Leadership Development Course, was recently renamed to reflect a more accurate description of today's enlisted Army leaders.

The purpose of WLC is to "produce trained and qualified leaders for the modern battlefield," said Staff Sgt. Dana B.

Woodley, the Fort Bliss academy's operations sergeant. "It is a necessary step in career progression. It serves as a reminder of what the standards are [for noncommissioned officers]."

"It was a necessary learn-



(Army Photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor, 4th BCT Public Affairs)

**Spc. Maria Kort (left) and Sgt. Andrea Myers, both with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, secure their protective masks after the "All Clear" signal is given during a training exercise during the Warrior Leaders Course at Fort Bliss. Kort, a military police officer, and Myers, a medical specialist, successfully completed the course Dec 15.**

ing experience," said Sgt. Andrea Myers, an STB medical specialist. "I learned that everything you do as a leader has to set an example as well as have your Soldier's best interest at heart."

"Junior enlisted Soldiers return to their unit bursting with knowledge and wanting to put what they have learned to the test," Morgan said.

"They are putting their leadership skills, although fresh, to good use within their

platoon.

"The Warrior Leaders Course has changed since our time, but the same concept still applies: enter to learn, leave to lead. These are our future non-commissioned officers."

Spc. Justin Russell, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, was the Distinguished Honor Graduate, and received an Army dress blue uniform, a plaque and a certificate of achievement.

The distinguished honor

graduate is awarded to the student with the highest grade point average above a 95 percent. For his accomplishment, Russell received an Army Dress Blue uniform, a Plaque and a Certificate of Achievement.

Spc. William Donnell, Company B, Special Troops Battalion, received special recognition by winning the Commandant's Leadership Award and was placed on the Commandant's List.

"Spc. Donnell has always shown great leadership and team work when working with others," said 1st Sgt. Gerald Morgan, top sergeant with Company B, STB.

"Making the Commandant's list and winning the Leadership Award was nothing less (then) what was expected of him. I was not surprised when he made it.

"As a first sergeant, it is always a good feeling when any of your Soldiers do well in an NCOA school."

In addition to winning the Distinguished Honor Graduate and the Leadership Award during the first two courses of the year, the 4th BCT has had nine troopers graduate on the Commandant's List.

## DFAC

From Page 6

took home the top prize for Best Thanksgiving Day Dining Facility 2005.

This achievement was rewarding because many of Worsley's cooks had never prepared this traditional holiday meal.

"Thanksgiving is the one time of year when they get to show off their skills and creativity," Worsley said.

Criteria for the competition included displays put together by the staff, as well as

the appearance of the cooks and the building itself.

"All I had to do was show them pictures of the displays I wanted and they did it," she said proudly.

As a sign of her gratitude, Worsley put all of the Soldiers who helped prepare the Thanksgiving meal up for awards.

"We have to motivate our Soldiers and provide guidance and support," Worsley said.

It is a goal of Worsley's to be a mentor to her Soldiers every day, and not just in the kitchen. She encourages them to stay

on top of their finances, and often invites Soldiers to her house for a home-cooked meal.

Although her Soldiers are from different battalions, it is Worsley they work with day-to-day, and it is her job to maintain accountability of them.

Worsley said that much of what her DFAC does is a direct result of the support of her chain of command.

With four years left until retirement, Worsley hopes to stay at Fort Hood and with the Black Jack Brigade.

"Being the 2nd Brigade DFAC manager is like walking on a cloud," she said.

**Save Your Own Life****'Power Thought' Resurrected**

By Spc. Joshua McPhie  
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

During the recent holiday season, the 1st Cavalry Division had three accidents in a very short time period. A privately owned vehicle crash claimed the life of a Soldier and his wife, a motorcycle crash killed another Soldier and a third Soldier was injured when a pistol accidentally discharged.

Dale Smith, the chief of the division's safety office, said two of the three accidents could have been prevented if the Soldiers, themselves, had been more safety conscious.

The division's "Power Thought" program, with the central theme, "I Can Save My Own Life," reminds Soldiers of the responsibility they have in maintaining their personal safety. The program originated several years ago, and it is something Smith said he is happy to see return to the division.

"It had a big impact the first time we used it," he said.

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., commanding general of the First Team, decided the program was worth reemphasizing. He announced his intention to reinstitute the Power Thought in the Jan. 4 edition of the division's newsletter, "Crossed Sabers."

"What the program stressed, more than anything, is the responsibility of each individual to act responsibly and safely in all that they do," Fil wrote.

"It served as a reminder to every trooper in this division that their nation, their unit and their families depend on their well-being."

Smith said the safety office saw a drastic reduction in the number of accidents when the Power Thought campaign was first started. He attributes this to Soldiers focusing on how they can stay safe.

"If you get Soldiers thinking in those terms, it puts the responsibility on the Soldiers' shoulders," Smith said.

"It gets everyone to be more responsible for their actions. It's just as applicable

**1ST CAVALRY DIVISION**

**FIRST TEAM  
POWER THOUGHT**

**"I CAN SAVE MY OWN LIFE"**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?**

I am responsible for my own safety both on and off duty, on and off post

**Risk Management**

**Risk Factors**

- Fatigue
- Aggressive Driving
- Seat Belts - IT'S THE LAW
- Drugs and Alcohol - State law and UCMJ
- Trying to drive too far without rest
- Speeding and driving too fast for the conditions

**Soldier and Leader Indiscipline - Not enforcing published laws/regulations/guidance/standards**

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT ?**

Because I AM important  
My family and friends love me  
My unit needs me  
My nation is depending on me

**POV Risk Management Toolbox**

Poster by 1CD PAO

to the commanding general as the newest Soldier in the division."

"I can save my own life," Fil continued in his Crossed Sabers commentary.

"I expect each of you to do the same. This year, we will train hard, train well and take care of each other ... starting at the lowest level - the individual trooper."

Smith said the safety office is having wallet cards and posters made to help leaders train their Soldiers, and remind them of the concept.

"A lot of times people won't get in that mindset until they realize they're important to someone else," he said. "You've got to see where you fit in the big picture. One person means a lot. Until people come to that realization, they will keep taking unreasonable chances."

Taking chances is what may have led to some of the accidents over the holiday. The Soldier killed on the motorcycle had not taken the motorcycle safety class required by installation regulations, Smith said. The class teaches precautions that may have saved the Soldier's life.

"A motorcycle is a whole lot more dangerous than a four-wheeled vehicle,"

Smith said. "If [Soldiers] have the 'It won't happen to me' mindset, then they won't take the class."

The Soldier injured by the accidental discharge was cleaning his .45 when the slide slipped and discharged a round into his thigh. Smith said the Soldier could have prevented the accident by making sure the weapon was properly cleared.

Not every accident can be prevented by the 'You can save your own life' mantra. The Soldier and his wife who were killed in a privately owned vehicle accident could not have done anything to prevent it, Smith said.

"They did all the right things," he said. "When an 18-wheeler goes out of control and hits the car, it's just your time."

The majority of accidents, though, are preventable if Soldiers are focused on their safety and their value to their family, friends and unit, Smith said.

"With a sharp focus on the mission at hand," Fil concluded in his comments to the division, "and an eye on the well-being of our troops and their loved ones, there is nothing we cannot achieve in the coming year ... together."